

# ***Glossary of Data Architecture Terms***

## ***Attribute***

Definition:

Any detail that serves to identify, describe, classify, quantify or provide the state of an entity.

Example:

The entity, Employee, may have the following attributes: Last Name, First Name, and Hire Date. Attributes are the general equivalent of physical columns in a table.

## ***Business Rule***

Definition:

A statement that defines or constrains some aspect of the business. Data-related business rules are statements, phrased in absolute terms, about data and about relationships between data.

Example:

- A telephone number must have 10 digits
- When a Student Name is entered the Social Security Number must also be entered

## ***Business Owner***

Definition:

A business (non-IT) organization that is assigned responsibility for business rules, defines data elements, identifies valid data values, establishes certification standards, and establishes the completeness and availability of the data for a Key Business Entity. The business owner takes overall responsibility to ensure the quality, integrity, and timeliness of the data across systems implementations enterprise-wide.

## ***Data Quality***

Definition:

A dimension or measurement of data in reference to its accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness and validity. Data is considered to be of high quality if it has all of the above attributes.

## ***Entity***

Definition:

In the Consistent Data Vision-2004 an entity is a broad category of information representing a thing of significance, either real or conceptual, about which the business needs to hold information..

Example:

- Student
- Organization
- Account

## ***Entity Lifecycle State***

Definition:

A discrete stage in a business process that is used to define how the information contained in an Entity changes over time.

Example:

“Person” entity as it exists upon completion of Aid Application versus as it exists upon completion of Aid Award .

## ***Entity Subtype***

Definition:

A subcategory of an Entity based upon a classification or process stage.

Example:

- PERSON - Applicant
- PERSON - Borrower

## ***External Data or Database***

Definition:

Data purchased, acquired or to which access is granted from an organization external to FSA. Typically, external data is for use by an FSA internal system or a data warehouse. Example:

- Student Clearinghouse database

## ***System Of Record***

Definition:

The system that has been designated as the authoritative source for a key business entity and has the responsibility for ensuring that the business rules set forth by the business owner are implemented enterprise-wide.

Example:

Common Customer Care – the system of record for PERSON information